



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Convicted of Killing Palmdale Woman in Decades-Old Case

A man was convicted today of murdering a Palmdale gas station attendant nearly 40 years ago, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Jurors deliberated for less than a day before finding 60-year-old Neal Antoine Matthews guilty of one count of first-degree murder. The panel also found true the special circumstance allegations of murder during a robbery, murder during a kidnapping and murder during a rape.

Deputy District Attorney Tannaz Mokayef of the Major Crimes Division prosecuted the case.

Leslie Long was working a night shift on Dec. 3, 1978, when she was robbed and kidnapped. Authorities began searching for her and three days later her body was found off the 14 Freeway in Acton. Investigators believe Long was shot and killed at that location.

Also charged in case MA066096 was 61-year-old Terry Moses. He pleaded guilty to Long's murder in January 2016. He also admitted the same special circumstance allegations.

DNA evidence tied both men to the murder.

Moses also pleaded guilty to the murders of Carlton Goodwin and Michael Fuqua on Aug. 22, 1976; and to the attempted murder of Kenney Guevara on Dec. 7, 1996.

He will be sentenced on Oct. 18 to three terms of life in prison without the possibility of parole. Matthews also faces life in prison when he is scheduled to be sentenced on Nov. 6.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.